

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 L-03 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

AGR-20 DRC-01 EA-11 NEA-10 /168 W

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R 211728Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6644

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH ON CND
AGENDA

REF: PARIS 31058, 32100

1. ACCOMPANIED BY GOSNELL OF EMBASSY PARIS, WELLMAN (S/NM), HAD CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS, DECEMBER 19, WITH GIRARD AND LEPRETTE OF MFA AND VAILLE (FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE ON CND). GIRARD GAVE COMPREHENSIVE WELL-INFORMED RUN-DOWN ON IMPLEMENTATION POMPIDOU INITIATIVE EEC AND STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR RATIFICATION OF TREATIES BY EEC COUNTRIES; THIS WILL BE REPORTED BY MEMORANDUM FROM EMBASSY PARIS. LEPRETTE (DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS) WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MLE BALENCIE, WAS NOT WELL INFORMED ON AGENDA AND ALTHOUGH CORDIAL WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT FRENCH VIEWS. VAILLE, SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW, EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH US OBSERVATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC, DRUG ABUSE, UNFDAC OPERATIONS, AND POPPY CULTIVATION

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FOR MEDICAL USE.

2. VAILLE STATED DRUG OF ABUSE HAVING GREATEST RATE OF INCREASE CURRENTLY IN FRANCE IS MANDRAX (METHAQUALONE). HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT LIQUID HASHISH. HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF US EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GREATER ASSISTANCE TO CND FROM WHO IN FORM OF STUDIES OF EPI-DEMOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF DRUG ABUSE, AND EXPRESSED VIEW WHO SHOULD BUDGET MORE RESOURCES FOR THIS ACTIVITY AND NOT RELY ENTIRELY ON UNFDAC FOR FUNDS. (MARTENS TOLD WELLMAN ON DECEMBER 17 THAT WHO WAS DEVOTING LESS THAN 0.2 PERCENT OF ITS BUDGET TO DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ACTIVITIES.)

3. VAILLE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT COMBINATION IN PERSON OF MARTENS OF BOTH POSITIONS OF DIRECTOR OF DIVISION AND ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FUND WAS HAPPY ARRANGEMENT WHICH FACILITATED COORDINATION. POINT WAS MADE TO ALL FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT ONE MAJOR COUNTRY COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PROVIDE 80 PERCENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND; THEY APPEARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS. IN FACT GIRARD EMPHASIZED THAT THE PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH FRANCE COULD DEVOTE TO BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS WERE LIMITED, SO THAT PRIORITIES NEEDED TO BE ESTABLISHED AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS CHOSEN.

4. ON POPPY CULTIVATION FOR MEDICAL USES, VAILLE EXPRESSED VIGOROUS AGREEMENT THAT PROBLEM OF OPIUM SHORTAGE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO PREJUDICE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL EFFORTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT COUNTRIES WITH NO DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE OR CAPACITY TO CONTROL SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE UP LICIT PRODUCTION; HE OBSERVED THAT INDIA HAD LONG EXPERIENCE IN LEGAL CULTIVATION AND ITS CONTROLS WERE

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"THE LEAST BAD" OF ANY COUNTRY. (MARTENS HAD DISCLOSED IN MEETING WITH WELLMAN ON DECEMBER 17 THAT THAILAND WAS EXPRESSING STRONG INTEREST IN LEGAL CULTIVATION, WHICH DIVISION WAS SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE, AND THAT INTEREST WAS EXPECTED ALSO FROM AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. MARTENS WARNED THAT CND SHOULD BE ALERT TO THESE TENDENCIES AND PREPARED TO COMBAT THEM. IN PASSING MARTENS COMMENTED HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THERE WAS REAL OPIUM SHORTAGE FOR MEDICAL USES.)

5. ON PERIODICITY OF SESSIONS, VAILLE EXPRESSED VIEW AS A TECHNICIAN THAT COMMISSION SHOULD MEET ANNUALLY IN REGULAR SESSIONS OF THREE WEEKS. TWO WEEKS ARE NOT ENOUGH FOR CND BUSINESS, HE SAID. LEPRETTE INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF US VIEW FAVORING CONTINUANCE OF BIENNIAL CYCLE WITH SPECIAL MEETINGS IN ALTERNATE YEARS, BUT GAVE NO FRENCH COMMITMENT.

6. MARTENS INDICATED IN GENEVA THAT DOCUMENTATION FOR CND MEETING WOULD BE READY TO SEND TO GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER HOLIDAYS IN ORDER TO BE AVAILABLE
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SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING AS RULES STIPULATED.

SOHM

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